

FORESTRY

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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

July
1950

Miscellany

Teachers, please write! In the May SCB, in an article entitled "Calling All Teachers," we urged teacher-members of the club to stand out and be counted, specifically by writing to Mrs. Joseph F. Verdi, 962 Euclid Ave., Berkeley 8, California.

We urge again that teachers who have not yet written please do so. We should like your name, address, grade, subject, and school—plus what thoughts you have about the furthering of conservation education in your school and in others. We want the name of every teacher who belongs to the club. Will you help?

San Jacinto? No final report has come in. The recommendation has gone to Washington from the U. S. Forest Service here, and the final decision is being awaited with some apprehension. Have you written Secretary Chapman?

A Reminder: That the Sierra Club's exhibit at the State Fair in Sacramento (September 1-10) will need "sitters." Last year the volunteers found it interesting and pleasant work. Get in touch with the Sierra Club office if you can help.

THE SIERRA CLUB, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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Volumes 1-5: The reprint project for volumes 1-5 of the SCB is going ahead. Delivery from the East is promised by late November. Sets are still available to late orderers at \$25 plus tax and shipping charges; single volumes also: No. 1, \$8; 2, 3, and 4, \$7; 5, \$6.

Mount Goethe: Professor Erwin G. Gudde, California place-names authority, is anxious to obtain a good photograph of Mount Goethe (highest peak on Glacier Divide) from the north, preferably from near Muriel Lake. He may be addressed care of University of California, Berkeley.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 35

JULY, 1950

NUMBER 7

...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

For the July Record

Duncan McDuffie Honored

An honorary LL.D. was conferred upon Duncan McDuffie in commencement exercises at the University of California, Berkeley, on June 16. President Robert G. Sproul read the following citation: DUNCAN McDUFFIE — *Lover of gardens and mountains; pioneer in the application of beauty to urban development, and in the planning of California's renowned system of State Parks; a conservator of natural resources whose tireless, persistent leadership has ensured for future generations the giant redwoods of our forests and the recreational values of our beaches; an intelligent volunteer in public service, and a loyal alumnus of this university, from which he was graduated with the class of 1899.*

Members of the Sierra Club will hail this honor; they will also be grateful that he served twice as the club's president, still serves as president of the Save-the-Redwoods League, and that he long has been and remains today one of the foremost champions of national parks and of wilderness.

Yosemite Amphitheater Saved

As you read in the May *Bulletin*, the amphitheater in Yosemite Valley was condemned as unsafe, and there seemed to be no hope that the outstanding interpretive programs would be carried on this summer or even next. Good news has come in,

however. The evening programs are being continued in a temporary structure which accommodates 800 people. Permanent construction will increase the capacity to 1500 in the course of the 1951 fiscal year. Popular protest over the abandonment of the programs did much to obtain this temporary action.

"Where I Go I Leave No Sign"

This middle-of-the-summer issue is a good time to bring up the subject of the small tin can. Yes, very small, compared to a mountain for instance, but oh, how ubiquitous, and oh, how tough!

Read Milton Hildebrand's article on page 5 and learn just how tough, and just how ubiquitous this small thing can be.

In the April *Desert Magazine* Randall Henderson gives the Sierra Club a pat on the back, and all of us a good slant on this matter of cans.

"'Where I Go I Leave No Sign.' Everett Ruess, the young explorer-artist who disappeared in the desert wilderness of Utah more than fifteen years ago, once wrote that message to a friend. . . . He probably learned his creed from the Indians, with whom he spent many weeks. . . .

"... The ace campers of California probably are the members of the Sierra Club. Recently I visited one of their campsites where 160 members in 46 cars had spent a week end. There was not a tin can nor a scrap of paper on the landscape. I saw one of the members smashing her empty cans

with a rock and putting them in her car. 'I am afraid the coyotes might dig them up if I buried them,' she explained, 'so I'm tak-

ing them home for the garbage man.' . . .
"It is a good creed: 'Where I Go I Leave No Sign'."

Conservation and the 81st Congress

Congressional activities in conservation continue to be good news.

On April 12, Senators O'Mahoney and Hunt, both of Wyoming, introduced a bill, S. 3409, to consolidate Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole National Monument into a new park to be known as Wyoming Jackson Hole National Park. Although there is probably not time for action on the bill in the 81st Congress, its introduction is encouraging.

The Jackson Hole National Monument was established by Presidential proclamation by President Roosevelt on March 15, 1943. Opposition to the Monument was immediately organized and a bill put through Congress to abolish the Monument. It was vetoed. New bills have been introduced in every Congress to abolish the Monument, but each year have attracted less attention, for political support for the Monument has been built up gradually by conservationists all over the United States.

As the months went by in early 1949, we were encouraged when no bill to abolish the Monument was introduced. This looked like progress. Then a conference of interested individuals and organizations was called to discuss the Jackson Hole problem and, if possible, lay the foundation for settlement.

Reports on the conference indicated that management of the elk herd remained as the only major unsettled point, the question being whether to allow public hunting on the Monument when it is the policy of the National Park Service that national parks and monuments shall be sanctuaries for wildlife.

A plan was finally evolved to settle the elk management problem, and S. 3409 was then drawn up and introduced into the

Senate. The bill would eliminate 6,675 acres of the present Monument which are adjacent to the National Elk Refuge and add them to the Refuge. It also would transfer 2,806 acres on the northern boundary of the Monument to the U. S. Forest Service. The remaining 212,000 acres in Jackson Hole National Monument would be consolidated with Grand Teton National Park and the new unit administered as Wyoming Jackson Hole National Park.

The bill also provides that stock drive-ways and rights of way across park lands are to be designated and opened. Leases, permits, and licenses (i.e. for grazing) which are now in effect will continue in effect until terminated under specified conditions in the bill. Payments to Teton County in lieu of taxes are also provided, the funds for these payments being derived from fees paid by visitors to Wyoming Jackson Hole National Park and from Yellowstone fees if required.

Under the terms of S. 3409, the elk herd would be jointly administered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the National Park Service. These two agencies would devise a long-range program to protect and control the elk herd. When controlled reduction of the herd is deemed necessary, it would be done by individuals licensed by the State of Wyoming and deputized by the Park Service. Each licensed deputy would have the right to shoot one elk within the boundaries of the park and take the carcass with him.

Even though there may not be time for the 81st Congress to enact S. 3409, its introduction is a step in the right direction, and there is every reason to believe that a similar bill will be introduced into the 82nd Congress with good chances for its passage.

JOHN R. BARNARD.

Great things are done when men and mountains meet;
This is not done by jostling in the street.

—WILLIAM BLAKE, *Gnomic Verses*

What Can We Do About the Cans?

By Milton Hildebrand
Illustrations by Ralph Mocine

THERE were some 35,000 stock-nights of use of the beyond-the-road back country of Kings Canyon-Sequoia National Park last summer. With the backpackers and spot trips there must have been 40,000 man-days of use. Suppose that two-and-a-half tin cans were taken into the high country per person per day. No, some people don't use that many, but think of those who take canned soup, milk, fruits, meats, vegetables, syrup—I should have said five cans per man day, but let's stick to two-and-a-half. That would be 100,000 cans.

Yosemite issued about 16,000 fire permits last year. Say that only 4,000 of these represented beyond-the-garbage-can trips, and that they averaged three persons per party and three-day trips. At the same can per man ratio we would get 90,000 cans.

This is nearly 200,000 cans for the two parks. Considering the out-of-park hunting parties, the skiers, and the area involved, at least 500,000 cans must be packed into the Sierra "wilderness" every year.

Now if all of these cans were just thrown on the ground and left to rust, as all too many of them are, how long would they last? On my first trip after the war I found that cans for products which had gone off the market four years earlier were almost as good (bad!) as new. I am sure that all the cans would last four years, and some would last very much longer. Let's be conservative and take six years as a figure to work with, although no tin can dump would disappear in that time.

Before destruction caught up with accumulation there would be three million cans. If these averaged the size of a condensed milk can it would take a truck seventy feet long, forty feet wide, and twenty feet high to carry them all. Imagine this truck going down the John Muir trail unloading ugly tin cans at the rate of 415 cases per mile!

As more of California's growing population hits the trail this load would increase and the truck could make more stops. And don't forget the glass. If campers take 5,000 bottles into the Sierra every summer, in 500 years there will be 2,500,000 bottles (700 cases per mile), because glass doesn't burn, rust, dissolve or evaporate, so they will *all* still be there.

Oh sure, I could be several thousand per cent off, but even if I missed a can or counted one twice this spectacle is not as amusing or as fanciful as we might wish. The problem is immediate and serious. How are we to get rid of the rubbish which now desecrates thousands of favorite camp sites throughout the Sierra and other mountain ranges?

The Federal services are keenly aware of the urgency and magnitude of the problem. They are doing what they can, and are studying new ways to improve the deplorable situation within the means of their limited appropriations. It is to be hoped that they can assist particularly with the initial clean-up of the worst spots. There is little incentive to dispose of one's own debris where others have not bothered. Recently I was forced to make camp on the shore of a timberline lake which was delightful except for a can dump literally five feet high. Was I to be one of the swine and throw my can on the heap, or should I be an ass and bury my one little tomato paste can beside the pile? I am proud to say that I was an ass!

However, wilderness travelers must themselves preserve for their kind the natural scene which lures them from the conveniences of civilization. The thoughtless must be awakened, the recalcitrant excluded (if such there be), and let the rest of us keep our mountain home clean without a tax-paid garbage patrol!



One Boy Scout troop has organized clean-up trips, and big outings such as the Base Camp and High Trip of the Sierra Club have pitched in on a big scale. What can you and I do?

WE can think and talk clean camps. This situation has been creeping up on us because until recently the mountains were too big to be dirtied by their worshippers. Let's make everybody clean-camp conscious and make up for lost time.



Speak to the fellow in the next campsite. Don't reprimand him. Convert him! We can leave camps cleaner than we find them. A little extra time can make a big difference. Cellophane and

wax paper don't weather away in a decade. Gum wrappers do not belong among trail-side flowers any more than plate scrapings belong on the living room rug. Everybody knows that papers must be burned, but it is hard to break bad habits.

Do not leave food on the ground with the excuse that it is for the animals. They may not find it, or finding it, may not want it. They don't need it and our foods are often bad for them. I have seen leftover spaghetti dumped into the riffles of a clear mountain lake "for the fish." Now no self-respecting trout would enter warm shallow water for spaghetti even if it were served with Parmesan. Those white worms were still there in the public drinking water when I left the mountains eight weeks later.

Some of the Sierra packers are setting a fine example by packing cans out of the mountains in their empty kyacks. Certainly this is the most effective way to clean up. Private parties could easily do the same. No hole to dig. No regrets.

Flatten all cans. A rock or the heel of your boot will do it. If you do not bury them for lack of a shovel, it will be easier to hide them. If you do bury them, the pit need not be so large, and it will not cave in when the cans rust.

Many campers fail to appreciate the importance of burning cans. Burning removes labels, most of which are water resistant and therefore long lasting.

More important, it destroys the thin coats of tin and lacquer which would otherwise protect the cans from the rusting action of air and water. On one trip I burned a can and left it by the campfire to be disposed of next day. Water thrown on the fire wet the can, and the next morning it had rusted as much as another can which had been on the ground several years. Impressed, I conducted an experiment when I returned to civilization. Six cans of three kinds were selected, and one of each kind was flattened and burned. All were placed in an inconspicuous corner of my garden and left for thirteen months. The burned cans were then breaking through along the creases. They could be easily folded with the hands. The controls were only spotted with rust and were firm. The labels of two were still in place and largely legible.

Even if cans are to be buried they should first be burned. It removes food smells which might attract animals. One crusading party felt so proud of their spic and span clean-up job that they posted a modest sign reading, "This is the way the Club leaves its camp." Bears promptly dug everything up and the next morning the sign looked out over a scene akin to Coney Island on Monday morning. Burying slows rusting anyway, and who knows when high water, a badger or a trail crew will uncover the whole mess, so let's hasten deterioration as much as possible.

Garbage pits should be dug well away from camp. Avoid the meadow unless rocks drive you there, and then save and replace the sod. Finally, if the top can in the pit is so near the surface that it could be uncovered by a nervous butterfly, you didn't bury your garbage, you just dirtied it.

Let's all get behind this thing and clean up our mountains!

MILTON HILDEBRAND.



Water Resources Meeting Held

A public meeting of President Truman's Water Resources Commission, Morris Cook, chairman, was held at the University of California June 23 and 24, to discuss some of the nation's major water-resources problems. Some 300 people attended; of the 62 speakers, nine represented conservation organizations.

It was thought that the meetings would be packed in favor of the Bureau of Reclamation, particularly in support of the Central Valley Project. The conservationists felt, however, that the hearing was open and handled fairly. For example, approximately fifty people spoke *against* the continuation of the present plans of the Central Valley Project; only three spoke in favor of the Bureau of Reclamation, after seven hours of testimony to the contrary. In general the meeting was against the financial and social theories of the Bureau of Reclamation. Each district agreed that it might be willing to permit the Bureau to handle the construction and the financing, provided that every project became independent from a standpoint of economic feasibility. This insistence on economic feasibility was repeated over and over again.

The conservation organizations were well represented: The Isaak Walton League by John Ebinger; the California Alpine Club and Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs by Howard Hirstel; the Plumas County Conservation League by John E. Farnsworth; the State Department of Natural Resources by General Hannum; the Sierra Club by Richard M. Leonard,

and the Associated Sportsmen of California by W. C. Lawrence, who endorsed the views of the Sierra Club and Isaak Walton League, and stated that the conservation groups were in general agreement.

Charlotte Mauk spoke as representative of eight different conservation organizations, but not specifically for any of them. Her speech came after three and a half hours of constant discussion and emphasis on dollar values, and received the first strong applause of the conference. Chairman Cook assured the group that the conservationist's view and the intangible values of water resources were being given very careful consideration.

The Bureau of Public Administration of the University of California, through Professor Samuel C. May, a long-time Sierra Club member, supported the conservation view. He pointed out that while we must carefully consider that recreation has values not measurable in dollars, it is nevertheless the second largest dollar-value industry in California—next only to agriculture itself. The subject is so important that the State Legislature has requested the University to make a special study of the economic values of recreation.

Chairman Cook commented that recreation seemed more important to California than to any other region the commission had yet visited. Its members listened carefully and asked searching questions of most of the speakers. They gave the general impression of being sincere, able men, earnestly interested in the subject.

RICHARD M. LEONARD

Chapman Authorizes Dams in Dinosaur Monument

The defense of the unique, scenic canyons of Dinosaur National Monument has been moved into Congress, with the announcement that Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman has decided to favor proposals for building dams in these canyons.

The canyons are now protected as part of the national park system, but people

of the region want them for reservoirs. Opposed by Department of the Interior's National Park Service and by conservationists all over the country, the dams were the subject of a hearing before Secretary Chapman on April 3. Bestor Robinson represented the Sierra Club at the hearing. It was then shown that sites outside

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the monument are also available. Nonetheless, the proposals have now been backed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation. Congress will still have to approve these recommendations and appropriate the millions before the monument can be invaded.

The Wilderness Society predicts that the opposition of conservationists will continue and increase as the nation becomes

more fully aware of the choice between preserving these great canyons and using them for reservoirs. The Society quotes an April 7 editorial of *The New York Times* which said that the Dinosaur Monument issue is "clearly drawn between an immediate material benefit to a locality, and the long-range, intangible interest of the nation."

R. M. L.

Bighorns Are Curious



Here is irrefutable evidence that the wary bighorn is sometimes not so wary. Mrs. A. J. Hardesty of Long Valley Dam, Mono County, found this ram seemingly contemplating a change of linen in her backyard one summer afternoon in 1946. It is not possible to determine from its appearance whether this individual is a Sierra or a Nelson sheep. Both races occur in this section of Mono County, though this particular locality is out of the way for both.

A point by inference can be drawn by Sierra Club high-altitude specialists who have trod the high country year after year with nary an encounter with bighorn. The solution is obvious and simple—hang your clothes on the highest point and sit down for a brief wait. A backpacker's set of rags should certainly have an appeal equal to Mrs. Hardesty's clean wash!

FRED L. JONES

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